

# Nation

Volume 11, No. 25 • October 29, 2004

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# The Wind Never Sleeps in Eeyou Istchee

by Bertie Wapache



Waskaganish Chief Robert Weistche with Nemaska Chief Josie Jimiken standing by a wind power blade.

**I**f there was ever a saying that goes "you can't see the world by standing in one place" then this may be a good example. First, let me ask you this: Has there been a time where you drove by the Eastmain River, the Opinica, the Sakami or gone to see the any of the La Grande dams and reservoirs and asked yourself, did it have to be this way?

I have been driving since the mid '90s and it has torn me apart to drive by areas where there is clear-cutting and mining. Nothing destroys me more to see the damming of rivers and the flooding of lands. I have driven by Eastmain for years and from time to time, I wondered how beautiful and how clean the river might have been, and almost every time asked myself the question, did it have to be this way?

Since the announcement of the

Paix Des Braves, it has been difficult to accept that consent was given to divert the mighty Rupert River.

It is also difficult to watch the HQ helicopters hovering along the Rupert to study how to minimize the impacts of its diversion. HQ plans to create a series of "aquariums" along the Rupert River to the point of diversion. Would you rather see a series of aquariums or windmills?

I have come to wonder why we haven't taken the opportunity to study alternatives and propose a new start in development, but this time limited to sustainable development. How about proposing alternatives for Rupert?

Did you know that the technology to produce wind energy has existed for about 20 years? Today, it is the world's fastest growing energy source. We should be asking ourselves why Hydro-Quebec haven't explored and proposed alternative sources of power.

A group of us were introduced to a new world last week. The CanWEA (Canadian Wind Energy Association) conference was held in Montreal October 16-20. Cree representatives from the Whapmagoostui, Nemaska and Waskaganish attended. We were all there to gather information on the industry of alternative sources of power. The information we received from various wind energy producers, experts and consultants brought us all new hope and new dreams. Why not? JFK once said "some people see things as they are and say why, I dream of things that never were and say why not."

Why not? [n]

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## on the cover

Paopao's Powwow at  
Ottawa Renegades Game

Photos: Steve Bonspiel

Design: Alex McNamee







## Alcohol still hurts

Dear editor,

Although I've been sober for over 11 years, alcohol still hurts me. For I've lost a loved one in an alcohol related accident over 11 years ago. Seeing people both young and old under the influence still brings back sad memories of the tragic day we lost our beloved son. I know this also happens to others who've lost loved ones because of alcohol-related accidents.

It especially hurts to see my own children under the influence. In our community, being under the influence is a daily routine and I often sit and wonder when will this trend will ever end.

I'm not the only one who's hurting considering the daily circumstances. I know for a fact that a lot of community members (especially children) are hurt by seeing the things that go on daily, but no-one seems or should I say we seem unable to do something about it.

As I write this, I think about the future generations and the yet unborn if the problems we are facing now aren't corrected at this present day, what will happen?

We've lost several community members in the last few years due to alcohol related accidents. Will we have to loose a few more people before anything is done about our present day situation?

*From a very concerned parent and grandparent.*

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# HEALTH CARE EXPENSES LEAD TO DISPUTE

## Mistissini man says Chibougamau hospital failed to heal him, but Health Board won't pay for treatment expenses in Montreal

By Norman Fireman

**A** Mistissini man is embroiled in a dispute with the Cree Health Board over hospital care – or lack thereof – he received at Chibougamau Hospital.

Charlo Iserhoff was badly injured in an alcohol-fueled fight in Mistissini September 23. Passersby found him in the ditch at 5 am. The police were notified and drove him to the clinic in Mistissini, where he was diagnosed with seven fractured ribs, three of them badly broken. As a result of his injuries the clinic sent him to the Chibougamau hospital.

After three days in Chibougamau, Iserhoff said he was suffering from continued pain and felt that something was still seriously wrong. Feeling he wasn't receiving the care he needed in Chibougamau, Iserhoff took a bus to Montreal, paying his own way. He ended up at the Montreal General Hospital, where they took X-rays and CAT scans.

Iserhoff's suspicions were correct: Montreal General Hospital staff needed to drain liquid and blood from the left side of his lung. The risk of infection meant he had to stay at the hospital for a several days.

But when Iserhoff went to the Module du Nord, he was told they wouldn't pay for his accommodations. He was told him he had no authoriza-

tion to come down to Montreal. His total costs at this point were about \$500.

Laura Moses of the health board said that if Iserhoff was admitted at Chibougamau Hospital, it is the Chibougamau hospital's responsibility. "But instead of coming to Montreal on his own, he should have went back to Mistissini clinic and seen a doctor there," Moses said.

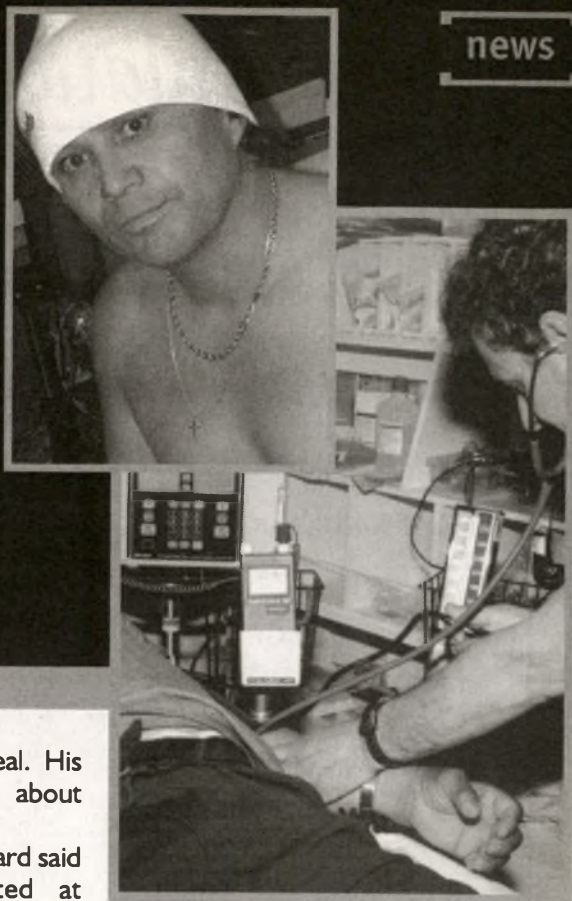
James Bobbish, who is the acting interim co-coordinator for the Health Board, said an investigation was undertaken. "On September 23 Charlo was seen at the clinic in Mistissini and referred to Chibougamau Hospital. During his hospitalization he ran away from there. On September 26, he had signed a paper [treatment refusal]. Next day he was seen at the Mistissini clinic again, they referred him back to Chibougamau Hospital but there was a verbal agreement with him he should respect hospital care and not run again.

Bobbish said patient services found out October 4 that Iserhoff was in Montreal to seek treatment. "Next day on the fifth he went to the patient services to ask for services. That's when they told him about the policies we use. That they couldn't do much for him as he was already referred to Chibougamau Hospital and they would have looked after him there. That's the

first reason. The other is that he chose to go to another destination and by having signed the treatment refusal, it's like he neglected the NIHB [non-insured health benefits], like refusing to get accommodations and other services so on that day he got angry at the Module du Nord Patient Services," said Bobbish.

"I guess what he's trying to say is he's been denied care from the Health Board. From our records both at the clinic in Mistissini and the Chibougamau hospital, he was referred to Chibougamau hospital and ran away a second time, so it's hard for us too unless he agrees to some kind of evaluation for someone who's not responsible for his actions."

Bobbish explained that the Cree Health Board policy is to make referrals to the nearest facility. "Let's say if I got sick and could receive services in Val d'Or or Montreal and I preferred to go to Montreal because I have more action there. Then they would refuse me. They would send me to Val d'Or because that's the nearest facility that has the services I could use."



news



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## Logging barricades close sawmills

Barricades thrown up by members of the Algonquin Nation at Lac Simon are being blamed for the closure of two nearby sawmills.

Domtar has said that as a result of the barricades, they will be closing one sawmill in Malartic and another in Val d'Or because of a lack of trees to supply them.

The Algonquins say they want the province to negotiate an agreement on forestry in their territory that is similar to the Cree-Quebec Paix des Braves deal.

Ministry of Wildlife and Parks spokesperson Mathieu St. Amant said the Quebec government is open to negotiations with the Algonquin Nation but wants the barricades taken down before any talks begin.

But the Algonquins say Quebec is putting the cart before the horse. "They want us to negotiate a long-term agreement before the resumption of the forestry operations," said St. Amant.

He said Wildlife and Parks Minister Pierre Corbeil is aware of the situation. "Minister Corbeil went to the community of Lac Simon on September 6, when they had the barricades up and had a talk with Chief Daniel Pien. Then a series of meetings

took place between Minister Corbeil and Minister of Indian affairs in Quebec City. So they went to Val d'Or to meet with the Chief along with the forestry workers. It was to try to have a short-term agreement on forestry and to take down the barricades," said St. Amant.

But the barricades are still there. "We're still working to have end this affair on the basis they want a bigger agreement with the Algonquin nation," said St. Amant. "Then we'll be able to sign a forestry agreement. But what we're asking them is that what about talking forestry now, allow the workers in, and then we'll be able to talk about a bigger agreement with the Algonquin Nation."

The dispute erupted after a dispute over logging on one of the community's traplines. The head of a family with rights to the trapline signed an agreement to allow logging, but has since died. The family now wants to renegotiate the agreement.

## Cree's eligibility challenged in Hawaiian election

Louis "Cort" Gallup, a Cree from Alberta, is running into difficulties as a Democratic candidate for the Hawaii state legislature seat of South Maui.

Originally from Calgary, Gallup argues the Jay Treaty makes him eligible to fully participate in politics on either side of the US-Canadian border.

Signed in 1794, the Jay Treaty allows Native Americans born in Canada to cross the border freely, to live and work in the United States, and to access social services. Canadian Native Americans do not need to obtain a green card or a work permit, and they cannot be deported.

The law is based on the idea that indigenous peoples lived and traveled through North America long before Europeans arrived and established national borders.

Gallup, who has lived on the island

of Maui since 1997, is a registered voter. Gallup said he believed the state checked on his citizenship before adding him to the voter rolls.

A formal challenge has been launched.

## Innu vote marred by heavy drinking

The Innu nation has picked a new president. Penote Ben Michel defeated incumbent Peter Penashue in the October 6 vote with 434 votes to 354. Penashue was president of the Innu Nation for most of the last 14 years but recently suffered a heart attack and planned to retire but came back because he felt there was a "deterioration of conditions for Innu people in the last six months."

The election campaign was marred by heavy drinking. President Michel admitted in a CBC news report that he supplied alcohol to his supporters in Sheshatshiu.

The Innu Nation numbers about 2,000 people, most of them living in Natuashish, a village on the northern Labrador coast, and in Sheshatshiu, in central Labrador.

## Total Eclipse of the Moon

On Wednesday October 27th there will be a total eclipse of the moon, which is also called the hunter's moon.

The beginning of the show will be at 9:14pm when the moon will slowly start to slip into the shadow of the earth. Between 10:23pm and 11:44pm, she will be totally into the shadow, during those 81 minutes she will only be lit by the red light from the sun which is crossing the earth atmosphere (that's why there's an orange cast on the moon). From 11:44pm the moon start to regain its usual brightness and will be completely uncovered by 00:53am. Have a good show and make a wish....







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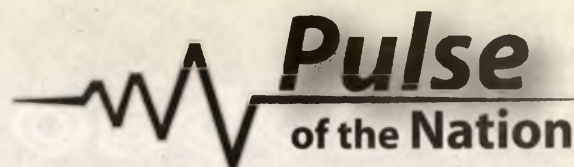
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# Goose & Moose Break:



by Norman Fireman

**T**his week we look at Moose and Goose Break. Along the coast of James Bay people are out goose hunting and further inland they are out Moose hunting. We asked people their observations and of course how they like their goose or moose cooked.

**George Snowboy Sr, Chisasibi** said he didn't have much chance to go out hunting this fall. He said there were only the small geese called the Richardson goose and added there were others that are smaller like the lesser Canada goose.

Years of hunting and watching has made George an expert. "What I like about goose hunting is when the wind direction is from the south east, then that was the best time for me to shoot geese. Others just like to shoot down geese. You have to know everything about geese."

Of course everyone keeps an eye on the weather. "If the weather is bad, it's very hard to travel by canoe to get to your destination." He says you can't take good traveling weather for granted. "Even if the wind is calm, it can change so rapidly."

The feeding grounds have changed as well, he added. "I can only blame it on Hydro Quebec. The goose eats seaweed called eelgrass but there's hardly any eelgrass along the

shores these days. If the weather is always bad even berries won't grow. When that happens the geese cannot eat properly and they stay thin and do not taste



good. I feel sorry for the young people just learning to hunt, it's hard to go hunting when there's not much geese. It used to be always good in my days."

How does he like his goose cooked? "I like the goose when it's boiled at medium rare. It's also good in the open fire in the teepee. I like the goose when it's cooked in any style."



**Sherman Herodier, Chisasibi** likes to go out for the goose hunt when they first come in: "When they see the goose decoys.

"In the old days the eld-

other game. It was around the time when we were allowed to trap beaver again.

"I was always happy to help and feed others. I felt good about that. In the old days moose were plentiful. But not everybody was lucky to get moose.

"Many times my dad directed me where to go to get moose.

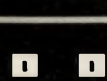
"I like Moose meat when it's cooked in the open fire on a stick. In the old days we cooked moose in many ways when it was boiled we could add oatmeal and that was good too."

**Paul Dixon, Waswanipi** because says the kids don't see the old way of life. "I just go out on my canoe and try to remember what life was like in the old days. I'm not only happy to go out for the moose but it's an obligation to go get the animals that are still there to sustain us."

He says his favourite way to cook moose is on a stick but said nothing beats a stew for a crowd. "You can feed more people or your family if made it into a moose stew."

Finally; the Nation asked **Luke Macleod** from the last issue his favourite ways to prepare the moose he got this fall. "I like moose meat in the open fire or making it into a filet mignon, elders like it making it into sausages. Nowadays you can take your meat to your local butcher shop here in Mistissini or Chibougamau."





# Paopao's POWWOW

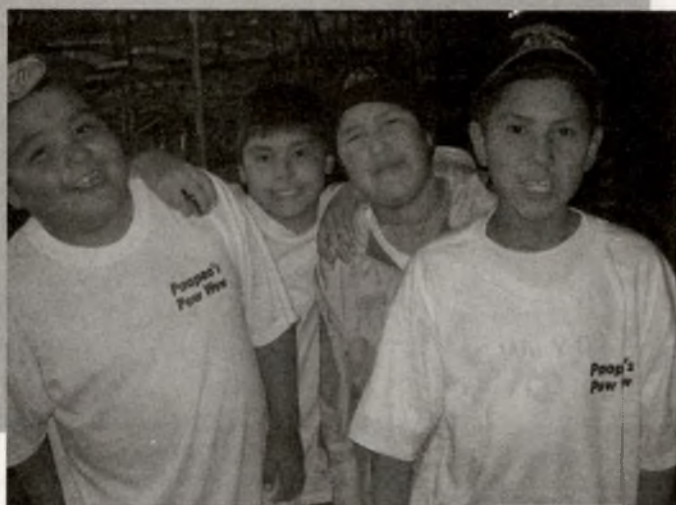


**Cree School Kids invited to Ottawa  
by Renegades Football Coach**

*by Steve Bonspiel*



*For kids who were  
watching their first live  
professional football  
game, they sure didn't  
look out of place.*







**a**pproximately 70 screaming and cheering youth from Mistissini descended on the city of Ottawa October 8-10 to attend an Ottawa Renegades CFL game.

The trip included tours of the national capital and was a resounding success, according to **Gordon Hudson**, one of the organizers of the excursion. "It's been a completely positive experience. These kids have had smiles on their faces since they got here Friday night," said Hudson, who was working his last day as the human relations officer for social services in Mistissini after being transferred to Ouje-Bougoumou.

"Whenever you can put kids aged six to 14 on a bus for 10 hours and when they arrive they still have those smiles on their faces, you know they're having a good time."

The event, aptly named "**Paopao's powwow**" after Renegades coach **Joe Paopao**, was organized following this summer's football camp in Mistissini. The August 10-12 camp with Paopao and a number of Renegades coaching staff attracted a large number of participants of all ages.



Hudson told **the Nation** that when he saw the success of the football camp, he knew it couldn't end there. "I started calling soon after the camp and that was when Joe Paopao invited us to come down. These kids got such a positive experience that they're still feeling the effects from it and I wanted to keep the ball rolling."

**"Whenever you can  
put kids on a bus for  
10 hours and when they  
arrive they still have  
those smiles on their faces,  
you know they're having  
a good time"**

It wasn't a free ride, however. In order for the children to attend, they had to keep up in their schooling, including attendance, and do positive things in the community.

"We visited the university and they were given a tour and after it was over I asked them "who wants to come to university now?" and every one of the kids put their hands up," he said.

*(continued on page 13)*



*Public Notice*

# Annual General Meeting

of the

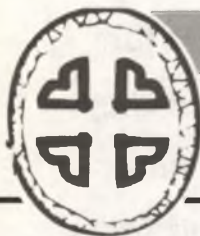
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*Where: Auberge Mistissini Lodge. Mistissini, Québec*

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**The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay**

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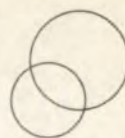
So if you have a *new* phone number or have *changed* your existing one, run to your band office to update the community list. Or drop us a line here at Beesum Communications. Whichever way you want!

Deadline for submissions is *November 29th*

Contact **Zadie** at Beesum Communications by telephone... (514) 272-3077; by fax... (514) 278-9914; or, by e-mail... [sjacobs@beesum-communications.com](mailto:sjacobs@beesum-communications.com) (subject line: *phone book*)



(Paopao's Powwow, continued from page 11)



Hudson mentioned that in the future some of the other communities are talking about being a part of something like this, but it's still in the early stages.

While in town, the kids visited the **New RO television station** and had dinner with **Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli**.

The entourage was joined by **Mistissini Chief John Longchap**, who was very happy with the experience.

"I think it means a lot to them," Longchap said. "For some of them it'll be a once in a lifetime experience and I think it's something they'll look back on as they grow up. It has opened their eyes to what's out there and what they can pursue in the future. I hope that the rest of the Cree Nation gets to experience this at some time in the future."

Willie Trapper, 11, said that he enjoyed coming to the big city and that the football game was his favorite part.

Willie Jimiken, also 11, said that he might like to play football, but there's no team to play on in Mistissini and he wished there was.

The only drawback to what was a great night saw the Renegades losing 32-25 to the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

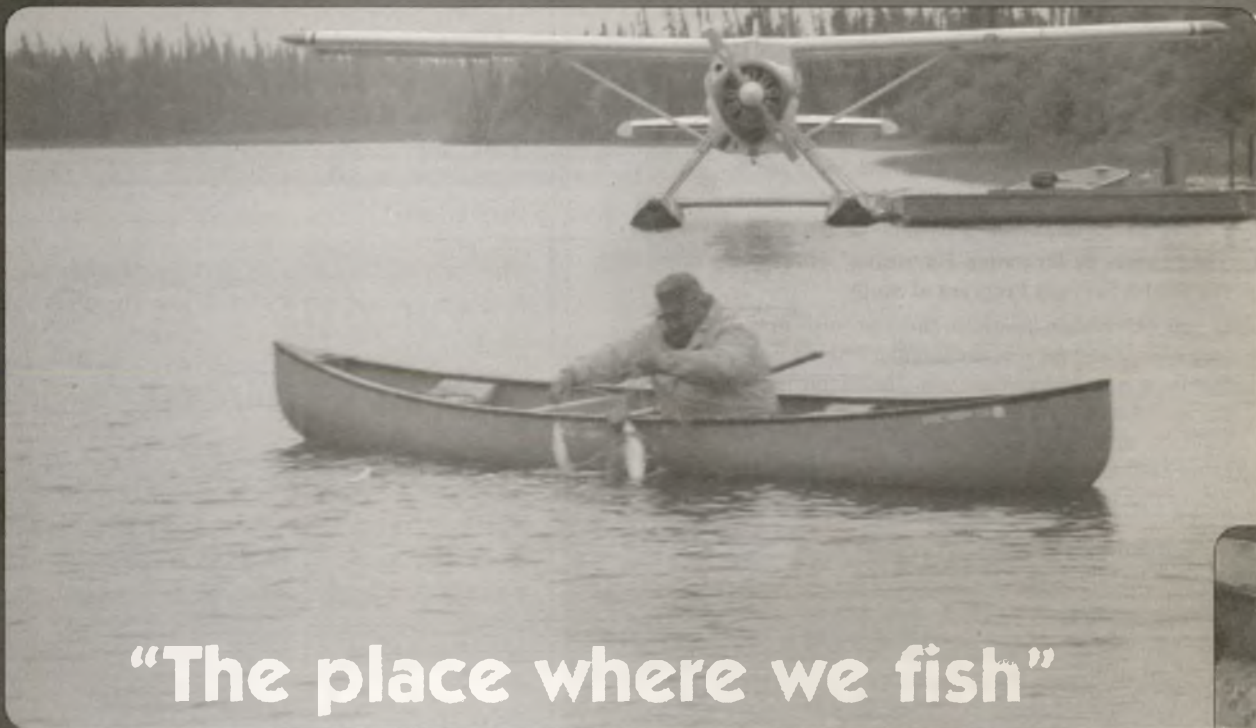
"The kids are enjoying themselves and I find it pretty nice for them to be smiling," said another one of the organizers, Ashley Iserhoff. "With the social problems and what a lot of the kids go through in the community, to see them laugh and smile it's something they'll keep with them forever."

"There's a lot of interest now with the young kids in different sports and this was one opportunity for a guy like Joe Paopao and the Renegades to come up to Mistissini and give them that push," he said, adding that getting a league going within the Cree Nation is a goal for next year.

"[With an event like this] they know that people care for them and support them. Hopefully this will push them to continue on in school and achieve whatever goals they have in life." [M]



# Nuudmessanaan...



## "The place where we fish"

by  
Ernie  
Webb



**NUUDMESSANAAN** is a fishing spot

upriver from Waskaganish. **Rezolution Pictures**

**International** went to visit Johnny Weistche and

his wife Clymie. We were there to film them

fishing. They had been fishing since August and

Johnny listed off almost all the other Cree

communities he sent the fish to.

*Photos, clockwise from left: Johnny checking the net; Fish hanging; Sanders Weistche and his wife Florrie; Sanders Weistche inspecting his work; Sanders Weistche bringing in the fish; Johnny scaling fish*





Johnny would check the net in the morning. He and Clymie would then clean, cut, dry and smoke them. The special treat would be the **SHASHDITSHAAN** ("insides") Clymie fried up for lunch.





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In addition to the program offering, Native Human Services has published five Native Social Work Journals as a community resource in Social Work Practice. There are five volumes available to the public. Each volume cost is \$20.00 for individual community members and \$25.00 for institutions.

For more information on how you can achieve a career in Native Social Work or to purchase any of the Native Social Work Journals, please feel free to contact the Native Human Services Department by telephone at 705-675-1151 extension 5082; by fax 705-675-4817 and by email at [frecollet@laurentian.ca](mailto:frecollet@laurentian.ca).

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(Nuudmessanaan continued...)



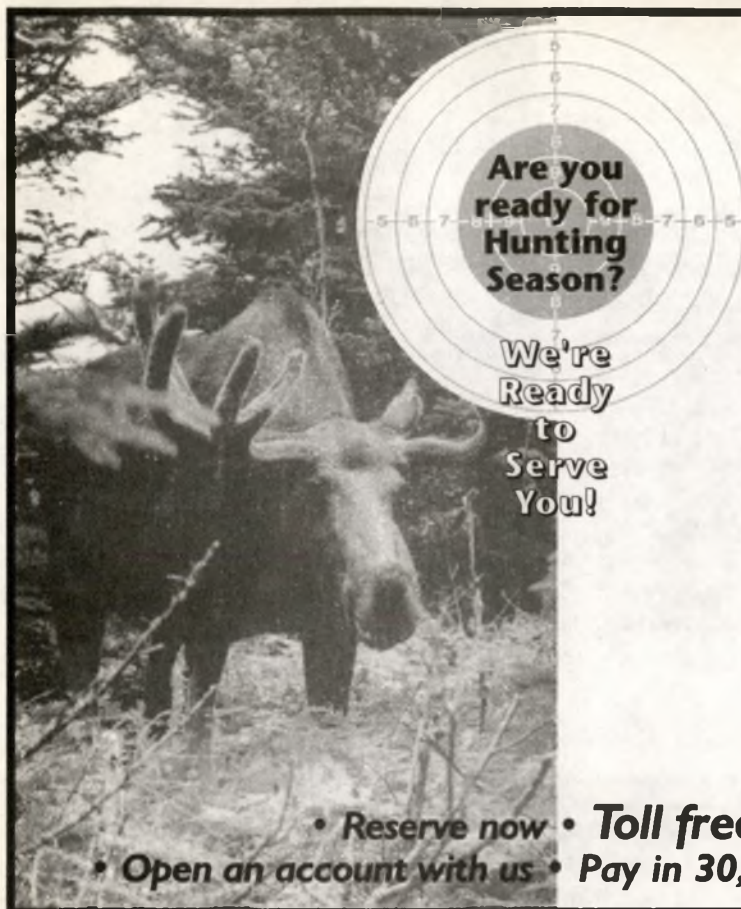
*Sanders Weistche is the tallyman for the area. He lives in his cabin with his wife Florrie and son Christopher.*

*We asked that he make a dip net so we could film him doing so. At the end we filmed him and his son Christopher use it to catch fish by the rapids. [9]*



*Clockwise from top left:  
Christopher enjoying a  
breather; Sanders Weistche  
bending the hoop;  
Chris by the rapids with  
a fish; Chris and Sanders  
fishing the rapids;  
The catch hanging*





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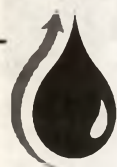
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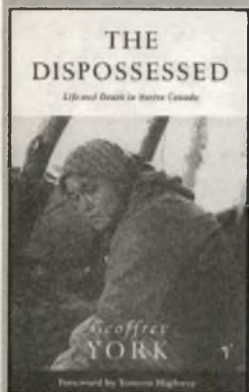
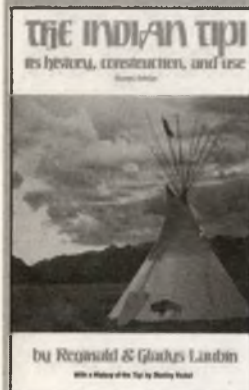
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by Will Nicholls



### *The Indian Tipi: Its History, Construction and Use*

By Reginald and Gladys Laubin  
Ballantine Books 1957

I think the title says it all. This book is all about tipis or teepees, depending on how you want to spell it. It covers the history and use of tipi's and more importantly the construction of teepees. Inside the book you will find plans to make your teepee. The book includes patterns for you to use when you cut the canvas (or hides for the truly traditional). It has different patterns for different tribes such as the Sioux, Cheyenne and Crow. It also has directions for making linings for the inside and designs for decorating your teepee.

It talks about poles and other necessities for the teepee such as back rests. Back rests are a must when you have no room for a western style chair.

It also includes directions for making parfleches (rawhide containers), Sioux boxes and beaded bags. It tells you how to cut and dry jerky. I found this to be an excellent addition to my library. The book might have been written in 1957, but its material is timeless and useful for anyone wanting to make and use a teepee.

### *The Dispossessed: Life and Death in Native Canada*

By Geoffrey York  
McArthur and Company 1990

This book is 14 years old and the stories in it are as true today as they were then. Some situations have changed and have been resolved but all too many haven't changed.

In the book York writes that "most Canadians are better acquainted with the history of native people in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries than they are with the unsavoury realities of recent years. Canadians know that the early settlers and governments took land from the Indians, but it is easy to feel detached from those events of long ago." He goes on to say that a situation happening today is "treated as an isolated event, a curious aberration, a temporary lapse in the judg-

ment of the administrators and leaders of our civilized society."

These words are near the beginning of the book and set its tone. It takes us across Canada and tells the stories of different Native peoples.

It even talks about the Ouje-Bougoumou people when they lived in shacks and dreamt of their own community. Even though Ouje-Bougoumou is a reality today they do not have the same status as other Cree communities. Other issues are unresolved and this book must be read and shared.

Long before Davis Inlet horrified Canadians with gas sniffing, York wrote about Shamattawa and its problems with gas. It shows this is neither a new issue or even an isolated one.

It talks about education and how the Sabaskong Bay Ojibway took control of their education.

It looks at inside the reserves and tells how some were moved because of prime land and how Indians were affecting property values.

There is all this and much more. For Natives this is a "lest we forget" book while for non-Natives this is a "what we should all know" book.

### *Hey Nostradamus!*

By Douglas Coupland  
Vintage Canada 2004

This boy just doesn't know the meaning of holding back. The story is simple and was obviously influenced by the series of shootings at high schools in the United States. With Coupland, though, you never know where you are going to end up. Coupland takes you inside the minds of four students, one of whom died during the attack. It looks at the three survivors at different parts of their lives and how the shooting has affected them.

The man is without question brilliant. I approached this book initially with the cynicism worthy of former Star Trek fan forced to listen to William Shatner's singing yet once again. Coupland's wit, though, is a saving grace for this book and I couldn't put it down once I started reading it. A highly recommended piece of fiction. [M]





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Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.



## Brownie Sour Cream Cake

1 box	light chocolate cake mix	260 g
1/4 cup	fat-free sour cream	50 ml
1/3 cup	Equal sweetener	75 ml
1 tsp	vanilla	5 ml
1	egg white	
1/2 cup + 1 tbsp	water	140 ml
1/4 cup	mini chocolate chips	50 ml
	non-fat, nonstick cooking spray	

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, combine your cake mix with the sour cream, vanilla, egg white, sweetener and water. Mix everything together with an electric mixer until smooth.  
Spray an 8-inch square glass baking dish with cooking spray, then pour the batter into your baking dish. Sprinkle mini chocolate chips on top.
3. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Be sure to test the centre of your cake with a toothpick in order to check when it's done!

*Makes 12 servings.*

### NUTRIENT ANALYSIS PER SERVING:

Calories: 125, Protein: 7.5 g, Carbohydrates: 18.3 g,  
Fat: 2.2 g, Saturated Fat: 1.15 g, Cholesterol: 0 mg



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continued...

## Reading suggestions

**1 *The Dark Tower*, by Stephen King**  
(Donald M. Grant/Scribner, \$35.)

Volume 7 of "The Dark Tower," involves time travel and a standard heroic quest.

**2 *The Plot Against America*, by Philip Roth.** (Houghton Mifflin, \$26.)

The experiences of a Jewish family in Newark after Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin D. Roosevelt in the (fictional) 1940 presidential election.

**3 *Trace*, by Patricia Cornwell.**  
(Putnam, \$26.95.)

The inept man who replaced Dr. Kay Scarpetta as chief medical examiner of Virginia asks for her help in investigating the unexplained death of a 14-year-old girl.

**4 *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown.**  
(Doubleday, \$24.95.)

The murder of a curator at the Louvre leads to a trail of clues found in the work of Leonardo and to the discovery of a centuries-old secret society.

**5 *Are You Afraid of the Dark* by Sidney Sheldon.** (Morrow, \$25.95.)

Two women are caught in a web of mysterious deaths and disappearances that are linked to the world's largest think tank.

**6 *Incubus Dreams*, by Laurell K. Hamilton.** (Berkley, \$23.95.)

Is a vampire serial killer preying on strippers?

**7 *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, by Mitch Albom.** (Hyperion, \$19.95.)

An old man who died while trying to rescue a little girl from danger discovers that all will be explained to him in the afterlife.

**8 *Nights of Rain and Stars*, by Maeve Binchy.** (Dutton, \$25.95.)

Life on a small Greek island is changed forever after tragedy strikes.

**9 *Shopaholic and Sister*, by Sophie Kinsella.** (Dial, \$23.)

The return of Becky Bloomwood,

whose long-lost sibling hates shopping.

**10 *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*, by Susanna Clarke.** (Bloomsbury, \$27.95.)

A literary fantasy involving a Yorkshire magician and the Napoleonic Wars. [21]



THE NORTH WEST COMPANY

# Recognizing Excellence



**Barbara Haines**  
Wemindji

## 2004 President's Awards

### Recognizing Excellence at Northern

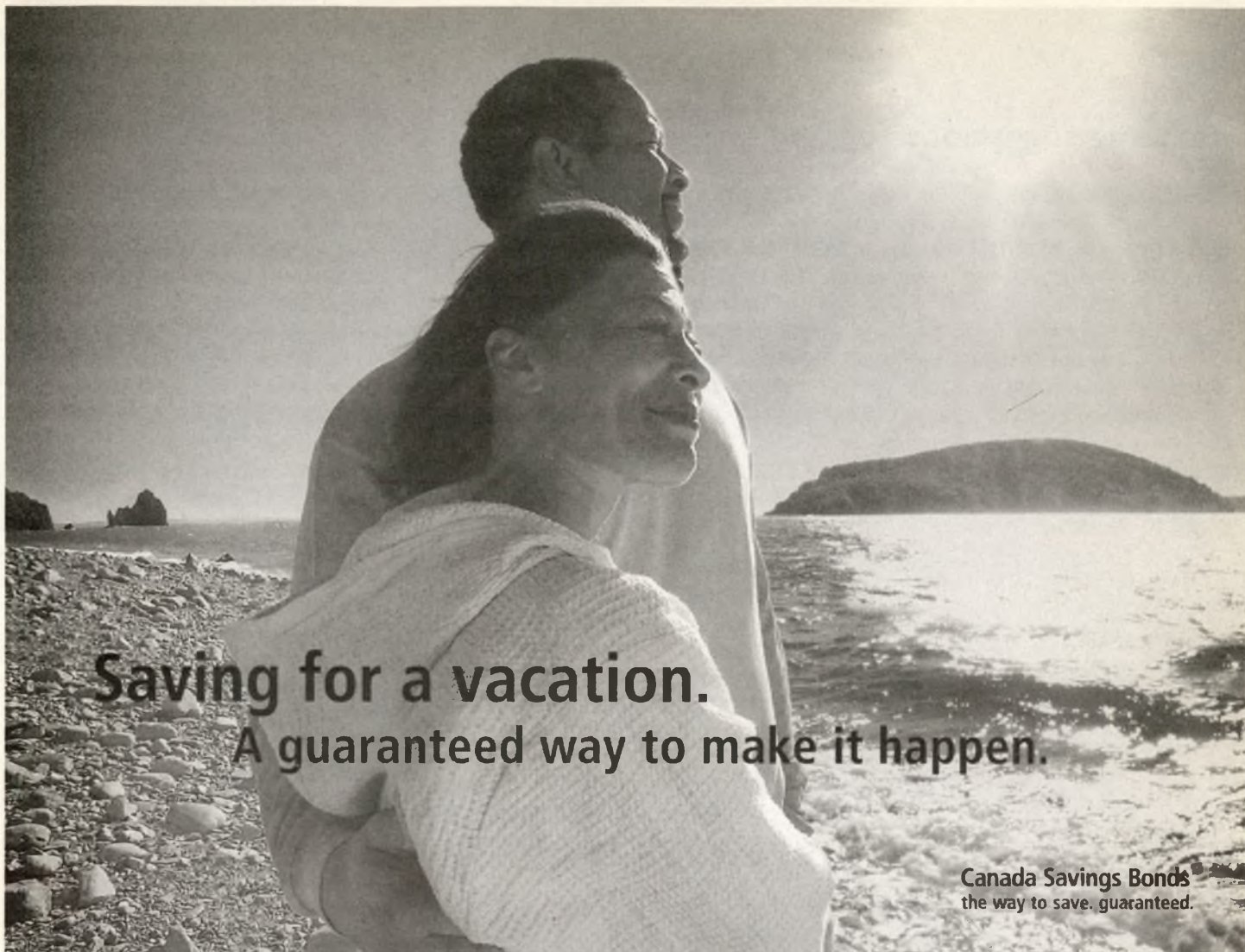
Barbara Haines from the Northern store in Wemindji was recently awarded The North West Company's President's Award for Excellence in Community Support. She was flown to Winnipeg to accept her award at the 6th Annual Recognizing Excellence Evening. Through the Recognizing Excellence program, The North West Company can celebrate the achievements of employees, like Barbara, who continually demonstrates that she is a caring, compassionate, and enthusiastic member of the community. Congratulations on your award, Barbara!

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# The Night That Lightning Struck

by Xavier Kataquapit

**I**t is a cold summer night; the wind is blowing wildly across the muskeg and forests surrounding the small community on the banks of the Attawapiskat River. A boy has bedded down for the night with his family and everyone lies awake inside the small canvas prospector's tent. The wind buffets the canvas that is supported by lengths of wood poles and rope. The boy's mother calms him as he lies on a bed of thin mattresses and pine boughs, as the noise of the storm grows stronger. Eventually, the winds die down but are replaced by the bright flashes of lightning that light up the night sky. The boy and his family are located near the large white Catholic Church. Many of the Cree families live in tents and wigwams in the vicinity of the church. Outside, the lightning flashes light up the church and loud thunder blasts shake the air. It is 1942 in Attawapiskat and several large buildings line the high bank of the community. The tall church stands highest amongst a series of buildings including to the east a large building complex for the missionaries, a manager's house, warehouse and storefront office for the Revillon Frères Fur Trading company and to the west another series of buildings for the Hudson's Bay Company.

As the storm grows, the lightning flashes keep landing more frequently and the thunder crashes grow louder. It is past midnight and the energy of the storm is at its peak. In the late night hours the boy grows tired and although he wants to sleep the storm keeps him awake. In his half slumber, a call goes out in the night. The lightning storm has subsided and the lightning now appears far off in the distance. People are running outside and men and women call out to each other to warn families and friends. One of the former Revillon manager's homes that had been recently purchased by the local missionaries has been hit by lightning and is on fire. The fire in the tall, two-story building quickly spreads throughout the wood structure. There is nothing anyone can do. There are no fire services and the energy of the fire quickly consumes the entire wooden building. In the panic, the boy's family has awakened and is taken to the scene where they witness the silhouettes of men and women standing around the orange blaze. They keep watch so that the flames do not affect anyone else. The ener-

gy of the storm and the sights and sounds of the community that night became an experience that will remain with the boy for the rest of his life.

The boy was my father Marius, who explained that this was one of the first memories that he could recall as a child. At the time he was only about five or six years of age and although he does not remember much about this part of his life, the events surrounding that night of the great fire became a permanent reminder of a frightful period during his childhood. This was a memory that he recounted when I showed him some old photos of Attawapiskat by John Williams, a former employee of the Revillon Frères Fur Trading Company during the 1920s and 30s. The black and white photos featured a historical view of the community and some of the buildings that had been built during the first few decades of the 20th century.

When I first saw the photos, I was surprised that there were so many large two story buildings that were built with a great deal of craftsmanship and hard work. The photos were also valuable in helping people like my dad recount stories and memories from this time. The images served as a catalyst to help them remember what the community was like when they were growing up. I showed these photos to Elders like Joseph Kataquapit who immediately recognized each of the buildings that were represented in the photos. The photos pictured a series of these buildings along the high bank and all connected by a long wooden walkway to the front doorstep of each structure. He described a time when the missionaries kept strong control of the community and did not allow people to walk after dark along the boardwalk. Young men and women made a game of the strict rules and had some fun in running up and down the boardwalk after dark. Elder Joseph also remembers the lightning storm and the great fire as he is a little older.

I was grateful to be able to show these photos to some Elders in my home community. Their remembrances and stories flowed from seeing the early photos of Attawapiskat and some of the landmarks that are long gone. I wonder when I take photographs these days if anyone will be moved by them 50 years from now. [π]



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## CLASSIFIEDS

**Congratulations** to my friend Edith Ann Hester and her boyfriend Darryl Whiskeychan on the safe arrival of their baby boy Dean Erwin Sidney Robert, born on September 12th 2004 in Val D'Or, weighing 9lbs. 2 oz. Take good care of your new baby boy. Once again, congratulations. May the creator keep him safe and watch over him each day. From Pierrette, Myra & Merielle. PS: Baby brother for Darla. Hey Darla, take good care of your new baby brother XXX

**I want to welcome** my little son Charlie Niquanicappo-Wetaltuk who was born September 10th 2004 at 5:17pm weighing 9lbs. You bring great joy to our lives and it never stop growing. Love, Mom and Dad in Great Whale River.

**Congratulations to Charlie Dick and Leslie Dick on the arrival of their son who was born September 17th, 2004 weighing 9lbs. 6 oz. From Mary, Michael and baby Charlie in Whapmagoostui.**

**Congratulations** to my uncle Ivan and his wife Paula on the safe arrival of their Baby Boy Lyle born on September 25th 2004 weighing 8lbs. 3 oz. He was born in North Bay, Ontario. Once again, congrats and take care. See you when you get back with our new cousin'sh. From Martina, Marisa N. Matt.

**Congratulations to Evelyn and Waylon Salt on the birth of their baby girl Dayona Jacklynn Ryla born on October 14th 2004 weighing 9lbs. Baby sister for Dylan! Take good care**

of her, cause she'll bring joy, laughter and happiness into your lives. Once again, congratulations! From all of us at 41 Smokey Hill Street.

**Wishing David Rupert a Happy 6th Birthday on October 8, 2004.** Happy Birthday and many more to come. And to my mom Kathleen, my grandpa Daniel Rupert a Happy 88th Birthday and my uncle/godfather Billy Neacappo and Christina Kitty Happy 30th Birthday. You old chys-gawsh..lol/jk... All on October 25,2004. Annie and Joyce say Happy Birthday to all of you and many kisses to Kaylee Rupert who's in Ottawa. We Miss You Kaylee. From Bella Rupert

**I would like to wish my daughter, Alica Jennessa Junelle Jane Whiskeychan a Happy 5th Birthday. She will be celebrating her special day on November 3rd. Happy Birthday Sweetie!!! Love Always, Mommy (Yvette) XOXOXOXO**

**We want to wish a Happy 13th Birthday to our son Naaman Moar on October 27, 2004. We can't believe that you're already a teenager, it seems like you were a born last year, but you are growing fast. And we'll celebrate on your special day "Birthday Boy". Again Happy Birthday to our Baby Boy Naamansh and God bless. From Mom & Dad, Linda & William Moar. Nemaska, Que.**

**I want to wish Happy Birthday to my sister FLORIA .S. HESTER (Oct 21) in Wask. I hope you'll at least get a bit drunk on your birthday. J/K. I thought**

I'd enclose a poem to say a few stuff. "When we fought, like couples who've lived together for years, we knew the most tender nerve to strike. But when we decided to cooperate, we became a force to reckon with. What sisters really know is that they can fight with each other because they will always be sisters: we have a blood bond". Anyway I just wanted to wish you happy birthday and many more to come. When I hardly say it, but you know that I love you sis. With lots of love. Barbs (wask)

**Birthdays greetings** going out to my two beautiful twin nieces. JOCELYNE TUESDAY, (Dixville) and to BETTY SONYA (Ottawa) on October 18. I wish you girls were here in Waskaganish. I miss you both so much, I miss giving you both hugs and kisses. JOCELYNE, I haven't seen in a long time, I always think about you and you're always in my heart, I always look forward to the day, they say you will come home for good. I hope to see you soon. BETTY, I'm so proud of you, going to college, to accomplish your dream. I hope that you will continue your studies no matter what you come up against, no matter how hard or difficult it is, I believe you will get through it. I love you girls both; you mean the world to me. Take care of yourselves and I'm thinking about you everyday. Oh P.S Betty take care of my little angel Kyra. Give her a big hug and a kiss. With all my love, your auntie Barbs. (Wask)

**I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Eddie Sealhunter and a Happy 1st Birthday to our Baby Boy**

Jayden Sealhunter both on November 1st. May you both have a wonderful birthday and many more to come. With love always, Julianna.

**Birthday wishes going out to one party animal from another, Miss Darlene Shecapio Blacksmith. Have fun on your day, be good to yourself and be sure to "bunt" yourself home allright. Don't end up at Cornerstone... heehee. From your 20th Bunting friend**

**I would like to wish Happy 3rd birthday to my spidey nephew Wesley Boy Sam. On October 30th, 2004. Happy Birthday Boy!! I bet you had a Spiderman cake... again!! And hope you got all the Spiderman Stuff there is... LOL.... anyways Hope you had fun on your speical day because you deserve it. Once again Happy Birthday and many more to come. Love Always from your auntie Stella (gatineau) xoxoxo (p.s) luv ya boy, mwuahh!! (K) I miss you alot too... Can't wait to see you!!.... Oh yeah, Happy Halloween!**

**We would like to wish a Happy 5th Birthday to Desmond Rhea Moar who will be celebrating his day on October 27, 2004. We were so blessed the day you were born and came into our lives. We treasure each day we spend together: we love you so much our son. With hugs & kisses, mom & dad. Wask. We hope you enjoy your Spiderman Birthday Party.**

**Samson Wischee** celebrated his birthday on October 10th, I wish him a Happy Belated Birthday! I would like to thank you for being there for me

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# CLASSIFIEDS

and my children and like always try to do the same for you. Thank you for being such a terrific uncle to my children. May God Bless you. With love your sister & your neices/nephews. Wask

**We would like** to wish a happy belated birthday to my aunt and to our grandma in Chisasibi. She was celebrating her birthday on September 28th. We don't know how old you are now but you're getting older everyday (jk). We hope you had a wonderful day cause you deserve it. You are such a wonderful, loving and caring aunt and specially a grandma. Love, from Pierrette and your two little granddaughters Myrash & Merielle. PS: We hope you're doing well everyday. We love you and miss you. Hope to see you soon.

**Someone special** was celebrating her 4th birthday on September 28th 2004. This young lady is my big sister Myra Tawnee. I just wanted to say: have fun on your birthday and I hope you had fun with Barney & his friends cause you deserve it. I know that you love me and I love you too but pleaseeee stop bugging me, just play with me. Love, your babysitter, Merielle Precious jewel XXX

**Belated birthday** wishes going out to Elvis Salt. He was celebrating his 3? Birthday on September 16th. Hope you enjoy your day. From all of us at 41 Smokey Hill. XXX

**I would like** to wish a Happy Birthday to my Godfather Neil Gull o the 27th of October. With love, John Arlo.

**On September 28th 2000** I gave birth to a beautiful girl named Myra Tawnee Blackned. She was celebrating her 4th birthday in Ottawa and she went to see Barney & friends. Myra, when I first held you in my arms, you light up my life. You also brought joy, laughter and happiness. I also wanted you to know that I love you so much and I will always be there for you my girl. She had a lot of fun with Barney & friends. Once again, Happy 4th Birthday my girl. With all my love, Mommy Pierrette Salt.

**Happy Birthday** to my Daddy Cool Johnny Bosum on October 19th. You've been a great Dad all these years and the world's greatest grandpa to my children especially to 'Rough Road', you know who that is... Anyway, have a wonderful day Dad, Grandpa. We are very proud that you are singing again because we love to hear you sing. We love you very much. God Bless you. From your daughter Clara and kids Crystal-Joy, Jimmy, Ritchie, Baby Charlotte & Richard O.

**On October 10th**, Happy Birthday to my sister Helen Salt. May your days be filled with joy and happiness. Love

always, your sis Eva XXX

**Happy Birthday** to my Daddy John Gull on October 20th. May your day be special as you are to me. Hugs and kisses going your way. I love you very much! Your little boy John Arlo XXX

**We would like** to wish a Happy 5th Birthday to Desmond Rhea Moar who will be celebrating his day on October 27th. We were so blessed the day you were born and came into our lives. We treasure each day we spend together. We love you so much our son. With hugs & kisses from Mom and Dad. (Wask) PS: We hope you enjoyed your Spiderman Birthday Party.

**Samson Wischee** celebrated his birthday on October 10th. I wish him a Happy Belated Birthday. I would like to thank you for being there for me and my children and I like to always try to do the same for you. Thank you for being such a terrific uncle to my children. May God Bless you! With love, your sister & your nieces/nephews. (Wask)

**I would like** to say Happy Birthday to 4 people in October. My aunt LUCIE MANSUM in Mistissini, her b'day is on October 31. As well as RACHEL ICEBOUND (oct 31) and to my cousin SHELDON MANSUM, he will be celebrating his birthday on the 27th, happy birthday and to my friend in Hull, MELANIE LONGCHAP, happy 19th birthday... Have wonderful birthdays, I miss my family in Mistissini and Waswanipi. HAPPY BIRTHDAY... all the way from Ottawa... Hazel Icebound XXX Oh, and happy belated birthday to all of in September, you know who you are...

**I would like** to wish a very Happy Birthday to my best friend and cousin Elaine Moses who will be celebrating her birthday on November 22/04. I'm sorry I can't be there to celebrate it with you but we'll make up. I surely do miss you buddy. I miss our talks but most of all our laughs. I'm so happy I found a good friend like you. A friend who is there when I need someone to talk to. I am glad to say that I'm your friend too. Just call me if you ever need a helping hand. Anytime you need a friend, always know that I'll be there for you... Once again happy birthday, my friend and many more to come. Love in friendship, your cuz Sabrina. P.S. Don't party too much... not yet!!!

**I would like** to say Happy Belated Birthday to my adorable, tough and chubby nephew who celebrated his 3rd birthday on October 19th/04. Yeah... it was Marcus Whiskeychan's birthday. I wish I was there to see you blow out your candles. I hope you didn't have too much cake on your birthday and I hope you didn't give your mom a hard time like

you do sometimes. Once again happy belated birthday!!! Love always from your auntie all the way from Ottawa, Sabrina. P.S. Be a good boy and be nice to your little sisters 'cause your the big bro. xoxoxox

**I would like** to wish Happy 5th Birthday to Desmond Moar, On October 27th, 2004. Happy Birthday Desmond, Have a wonderful day lil' man. I hope you enjoy your special day!! You're getting older. Sorry that I can't be there for your birthday, I'm sure you still had FUN. Well once again HAPPY BIRTHDAY. And I hope you go to your Hockey practices. I can't wait for you guys to visit me, please come SOON. Love, Andrea Moar (Ottawa) p.s. I miss you so much Desmond and Kenny.

**I would like** to wish Happy Belated Birthday to Betsy Wash. I'm Sorry I wasn't there with you on your special day... Hope you had fun at your party Lot's of Hugs and Kisses Love always — you might know me (I'm in Wask...) xox

**Happy Belated Birthday** to Bruno Sheshamush who had his birthday on October 1st, 2004 and we hope you have many more to come. Best wishes from Mary Niquanicappo, Michael Weetaltuk and baby Charlie.

**We would like** to wish a Happy 16th Birthday to our Buddy! — Tania Coon... A.K.A T-gurl! On October 25 hope u enjoy your birthday!... Please try to have fun even tho' it's on a Monday! Anyway Happy Birthday! Friends always! Rox, Nadz, Vanilla, Jules, Steak-C, Boo-Jou... (Mistissini)

**We would like** to send a birthday wishes to a wonderful son of ours Corey David Rabbitskin. Happy second birthday on October 9th 2004, wishing all the best in life little bossy:D:D and many more years to come! Love always mommy and daddy big bro Jason

**We would like** to wish a happy birthday to my cousin Clint flagole on October 15 2004. Many more to come and don't party too much take care. From your cuz Nicole t Rabbitskin.

**My Dad Marty** Robert Cowboy will be celebrating his birthday on November 2nd so, publicly I would like to wish him a happy birthday. Well Dad, you may still have struggles in life with something you want most ever since you were born. I will always be there you know, especially when it comes about \*\*HIM\*\* You were always there for me and my kids. Anyways, I believe that quote when they say that Moms say no and Dad say yes. When my Mom said no to me when I wanted to borrow the car, I know my Dad would say yes. So sometimes I don't bother asking my Mom. I still loves her even times

when there is No. Once again, happy birthday DAD! Love always, your daughter Martina Erika XXX

Hey Marisa! Do you know who's birthday is it on the 2nd of November? Oh yeah, Moujou Naah! Me and my lil' brother Matt want to wish our grandpa Marty a happy birthday and many more to come. Dad, we want to thank you for being there for us. Love always, your grandchildren, Marisa & Matthias.

## WEDDINGS

**Sharing, caring, making each other happy** — is love. Best wishes for a happy married life.

**Congratulations** to my Dearest Friend, Sasha Weistche and her Husband, Sydney Whiskeychan, as they exchanged their wedding vows on Saturday, October 9th, 2004 in Amos, Quebec. Love In Friendship and Best Wishes, Janice, Brad and Braden. (Moose Factory, Ontario)

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Happy Anniversary** on the 9th of August to my Godparents Neil and Pauline. With love, John Arlo XXX

## PERSONAL

**I would like** to wish my "cutie" nephew Kasen Matthew a Happy 1st Halloween on October 31st, 2004. Happy 1st Halloween Baby Kay! I wonder what your going to wear for your 1st Halloween... anyways hey Steff!... Make sure you take a picture and send it to us. We wouldn't miss his 1st costume for Halloween. Anjabaw! I miss you alot boy, Can't wait to see you too! Luv ya so much. From your auntie Stella (Gatineau) xoxoxo (p.s) I miss you all so much... luv ya guys!

**I would like** to say hi to my friends in North Bay, Ontario; Marion Cheezo, Tammy Trapper, Angeline McLeod and Brenda (Bones) St-Pierre. Hang in there girls and keep up the good work. I miss u's and hope to see you soon. Love in buddyship... LOL. Martina in Wask.

**My buddy and use-to-be** my nanny Marion Cheezo is in college in North Bay, and I really miss seeing her coming at our house, so I would like to tell her: I miss you buddy and hang' in' thurr. From buddy Matthias.

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Left to right: Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign, Mrs Aline Sauvageau et Johanne Lacasse on behalf of Conférence régionale des élus de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign, and Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT.

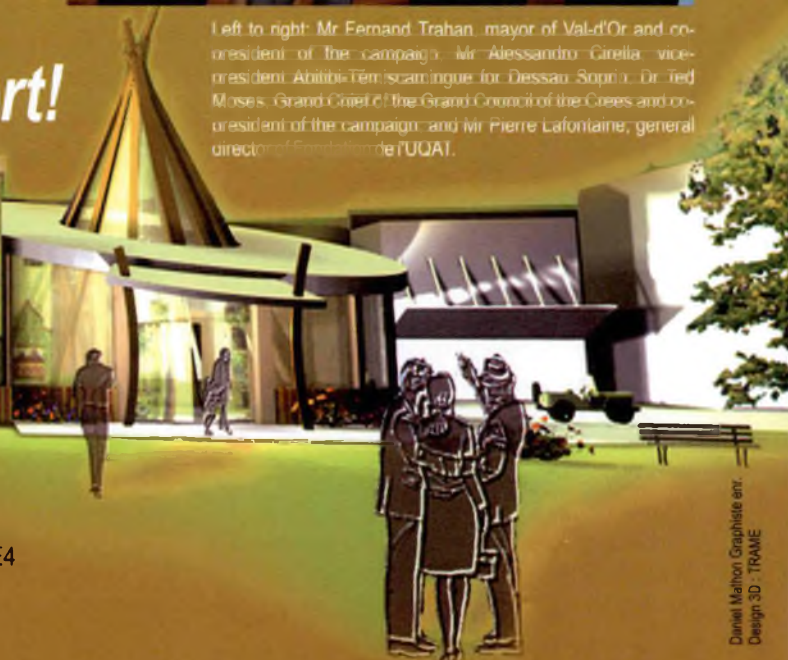


Left to right Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign, Mr Serge Beaudoin, general director of Caisse populaire de la Vallée-de-l'Or, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign, and Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT.



Left to right: Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign, Mr Alessandro Cirella, vice-president Abitibi-Témiscamingue for Dessau Sopco, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign, and Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT.

## Thanks for your support!



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